

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO, MBFR

SUBJECT: MBFR: UK APPROACH ON EQUIPMENT LIMITATIONS

REF: NATO 5845 DTG 271755Z OCT 75

1. YOU SHOULD DRAW ON FOLLOWING IN COMMENTING ON UK
APPROACH ON TACTICS OF DISCUSSING ARMAMENTS LIMITATIONS

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(REF A).

2. THE US CONTINUES TO BELIEVE THAT A DETAILED AND SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION OF ARMAMENTS LIMITATION ISSUES SHOULD NOT TAKE PLACE UNTIL AFTER AN EASTERN REACTION TO THE BASIC OPTION III PROPOSAL HAS BEEN RECEIVED.

3. WE HAVE TAKEN THIS POSITION BOTH FOR SUBSTANTIVE AND FOR TACTICAL NEGOTIATING REASONS. FIRST, THE LIMITATION ON US NUCLEAR ELEMENTS IN MBFR ARE ACCEPTABLE TO US ONLY AS THE RESULT OF A SATISFACTORY REDUCTIONS AGREEMENT; WE THEREFORE DO NOT WANT TO SUGGEST TO THE EAST THAT ARMAMENT LIMITATIONS, IN ISOLATION FROM SUCH A REDUCTION AGREEMENT, COULD BE AN ACCEPTABLE ELEMENT IN MBFR. SECONDLY, THERE ARE A NUMBER OF VERY DIFFICULT NEGOTIATING ISSUES INVOLVED IN ARMAMENT LIMITATIONS; IF BASIC REDUCTION ELEMENTS OF OPTION III FAIL TO ELICIT A FAVORABLE RESPONSE FROM THE

EAST, MAKING KNOWN THE DETAILS OF OUR APPROACH TO ARMAMENT LIMITATIONS WOULD BE LIKELY TO MAKE MATTERS WORSE AND DETRACT FROM THE IMPACT OF OPTION III. IN SUM, WE WANT TO VERIFY THAT OPTION III OFFERS REAL HOPE OF PRODUCING MOVEMENT BEFORE ADVANCING INTO THE DETAILS OF ARMAMENT LIMITATIONS.

4. (YOU MAY MAKE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL POINTS TO UK DEL, IF APPROPRIATE.) WE RECOGNIZE THAT THE FIRST EASTERN REACTION TO OPTION III MAY BE AMBIGUOUS, OR THAT THE EAST MAY ATTEMPT TO AVOID MAKING A CONSIDERED RESPONSE TO THE BASIC OFFER BEFORE THE WEST OUTLINES ITS POSITIONS ON ARMAMENTS LIMITATIONS. BUT WE BELIEVE THAT IF THE AHG IS FIRM ON NOT ADVANCING FURTHER WITHOUT SUCH A CONSIDERED RESPONSE, THE EAST WILL BE UNDER PRESSURE TO SUPPLY ONE, IF ONLY A CONDITIONAL ONE. NEVERTHELESS, SHOULD THE SITUATION ENVISIONED BY THE UK ACTUALLY COME TO PASS, WE BELIEVE THE ALLIANCE COULD MOST PRODUCTIVELY ADDRESS THE PROBLEM IN THE LIGHT OF THE PREVAILING TACTICAL SITUATION. KISSINGER

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